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Glorious Nippon Army

Efficient Strategy of High Command Executed In Bold Strokes By Intrepid Officers and Men

The Nippon Empire has finally risen in arms to crush the arrogant United States and Britain which had attempted to materialize their inordinate ambition of invading and dominating the world under a false humanitarian guise and which had also formed a common front for the encirclement of Nippon in order to hinder the prosecution of her program for the establishment of world peace.

Only three months after the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War, Nippon forces compelled the Dutch East Indies to capitulate unconditionally on March 9. Furthermore, the Burma Route has completely ceased to function due to the occupation of Rangoon, the capital of Burma.

The Anglo-American front for the encirclement of Nippon has thus been destroyed and important bases in their possession in East Asia lost. With their position changed from the offensive to the defensive, the two countries early indicate signs of collapse.

On the contrary, Nippon has already brought under control most of the military bases in the possession of the anti-Axis countries in the vast Pacific that extends over 70 million square miles. Complete control of all of the bases is now a mere question of time.

Finishing the first stage of military operations in the Greater East Asia War, Nippon is about to advance along the path of constructive warfare, no matter how protracted the hostilities may be, for the final crushing of the United States and Britain on the basis of Nippon's long-term victorious national system for the execution of her grand plan for the development of Greater East Asia.

At the outset of the war, no foreign country presumed that a new era would dawn in East Asia in such a short span of time as has been proved. The splendid achievements of the Nippon forces during the early days of the war and their continued brilliant military successes fully exhibit Nippon's actual national strength. The efficient strategy and gallant fight of the Nippon forces are surprising the world.

These military accomplishments are, of course, due to the August Virtue of H. M. the Emperor, but one must bear in mind in this connection

the fact that the victories are also attributable to the spirit of the Imperial Army which has ever been fostered and maintained for the fulfillment of its mission as the guardian of the Empire.

Speaking before the 79th ordinary Diet session on January 21, Premier General Hideki Tojo explained the principle of waging the Greater East Asia War. He said that Nippon's policy is to continue to fight until the United States and Britain capitulate, by carrying out increasingly positive military operations in conjunction with Germany and Italy while exanding Nippon's military capacity by securing strategic points and controlling the areas of key resources in Greater East Asia.

Following the principle indicated by the Premier, the Nippon forces are advancing boldly to fight enemy troops wherever they are located.

The exploits of the Imperial Army since the outbreak of the war will be explained in the following paragraphs from the viewpoint of reaffirming our determination to continue to fight until the final victory is won.

Superiority of Imperial Army

The superiority of Nippon's Army forces has long been demonstrated since the time of the Boxer incident in which Nippon troops gained a reputation for bravery amidst the units of various other countries. Subsequently, by defeating China and Russia in the Nippon-China War of 1894-95 and the Nippon-Russian War of 1904-05, the Imperial Army exhibited its superiority before the eyes of the world and its strength was recognized by various nations.

The present Greater East Asia War is different from the wars in the past in many respects due to the mechanization of units through the development of modern science, the perfection of the troops' equipment and the remarkable progress of military aviation. The present war is also incomparably vast in the scope of military operation.

Under these new circumstances, the Nippon forces, continuing a steady advance since the outbreak of the war, have accomplished brilliant achievements on land, in the sea, and in the air by defeating the Anglo-American allies in various sectors.

This fact indicates the efficient strategy of the High Command and the brave fight waged by officers and men at the front. This at the same time, reaffirms the superiority of the Nippon forces.

This superiority originates from full preparations for emergency and incessant military training.

The United States, unaware of the complete preparations on the part of Nippon, not only made a serious diplomatic blunder in the Nippon-United States conversations at Washington, but also underestimated the actual strength of our country. The United States was misled particularly by the assumption that Nippon's national power had become exhausted by the military operations in connection with the China Emergency.

To explain Nippon's prudent national defense policy:

The Imperial Army, early in 1936, realized the need of drastically expanding military preparedness and the productive capacity. Noting that arms expansion and rearmament among various European powers would be completed during the period from 1940 to 1942, the Army concluded that an international crisis might occur at about that time.

Planning a drastic expansion of military preparedness and the productive capacity by 1942, the Army enforced a six-year arms expansion program, extending from 1937 to 1942, and a five-year productive capacity increase plan, extending from 1937 to 1941.

The Marco Polo bridge incident leading to the China Emergency broke out in July, 1937, the first year of the above-mentioned arms expansion program.

Firmly following the policy of avoiding the exhaustion of military strength due to the China Emergency, the Imperial Army proceeded with the replenishment of arms and the expansion of the productive capacity while continuing efforts to settle the China Emergency.

Thus full preparations were continued for the international crisis considered likely in 1942.

To be more explicit, the Army devoted 40 per cent of its budget to the China Emergency while the balance of 60 per cent was appropriated for the expansion of military preparedness at home. Furthermore, the Army consumed 20 per cent of iron and other important materials supplied to it in the China Emergency; the remaining 80 per cent was used for the expansion of military preparedness.

As the result, air and mechanized units were greatly expanded.

The fighting power of the Imperial Army has, in all, become more than three times as strong as that before the outbreak of the China Emergency.

Together with the Imperial Navy, whose strength was hardly affected by the China Emergency, the Imperial Army had consolidated the foundation for meeting any new emergency.

Along with this, the capacity of the munitions industry was expanded from 700 to 800 per cent.

During the prosecution of this cautious national defense policy, the intensive training of our officers and men was continued day and night. While they were fully inured to withstand hardships, their spiritual fortitude and military ability-both important factors in hostilities- were perfected. While overcoming every ideological hindrance to fight, originating from the liberalistic civilization, the troops underwent arduous training, guided by firm conviction in victory.

The aim of the training was to overcome difficulties pertaining to the advance of large convoys over a long distance, the relevant dangers at sea, landing before enemy guns after navigating a long distance, military operations in jungle regions, battles in the tropical zone, and onslaughts in steep mountainous areas.

The American and British positions in East Asia were strongholds constructed with the use of modern scientific inventions in efforts lasting over many years. The attack on them by Nippon's first-line officers and men, therefore, was most trying.

Nevertheless, showing the results of their training during the preparatory period, they defeated anti-Axis allied troops in severe hostilities in a short span of time. The superiority of the Imperial Army thus won renown anew.

The training of the Army officers and men resulting in the brilliant achievements of the Imperial forces in the Greater East Asia was generally as follows:

1. Training for Attack On Hong Kong

Units on the front, allotted to the attack on Hong Kong, previously underwent severe training for a long period of time in the hills in the vicinity of Canton which geologically resembled the conditions at Hong Kong. The training was centered on night attack, most dreaded by enemy troops, and also assaults on tockas.

The training was divided into three phases, sunset, midnight, and dawn. During the training in daylight, officers and men wore black-colored spectacles called "night-glasses" for the particular purpose of orienting them to a situation similar to that existing at the time of a night attack.

The training for attacks on tockas was equally intensive, resulting in a number of casualties.

As the result of the training, the officers and men were fully prepared for night fight in mass formation in steep mountainous regions where troops ordinarily would be unable to advance even during daytime.

Moreover, the success of the night attack was due, in particular to the conviction of victory among the rank and file.

When the contingents that had undergone training in the region of the hills in the Canton vicinity faced Hongkong island after sweeping over the Kowloon peninsula, they realized that an attack on the island would not be difficult in view of their previous training. They were convinced that Hongkong would be captured by a night onslaught.

While understanding the significance of their incessant training the officers and men thus took the measure of the enemy's strength even before fighting.

2. Training For Attack in the Malayan Jungle Area.

The contingents operating in this area underwent training for a considerably long period of time at specially selected spots in French Indo-China, in addition to training in Nippon. The training was aimed at preparing for a thrust through enemy lines of fortifications having strong tockas constructed along roads passing through trackless jungles.

Overcoming difficulties in advancing through primitive forests, the units of the Imperial Army accomplished deeds worthy of special mention in the history of world warfare by conducting military operations, based on efficient strategy, with closest cooperation effected among the mechanized, infantry, and engineering corps.

The strength of the Imperial Army, indicated by the conquest of the Malay peninsula extending 1,100 kilometers in 55 days of hostilities and the subsequent capture of Singapore island, originates from the intensive training carried out in advance.

Such exploits are accomplishable only by the Imperial Army. Enemy troops have admitted that they were no rival of the Nippon forces, whose military power is incomparably strong and whose efficient strategy is of the highest order.

3. Training For Landing Operations

Various Nippon Army units employed in the present military operations in the southern region underwent training for surprise landing operations in a manner unique to the Imperial Army for a long period of time.

A certain contingent among them participated in extensive maneuvers in various sectors, in conjunction with the Imperial Navy, in the spring of 1941 and subsequently staged landing operations in Central and South China where the detachment fought to destroy enemy bases along the Chiang-aiding routes.

Following this training and participation in actual hostilities, the corps underwent continued drills.

Thus fully prepared, the unit succeeded in landing before enemy guns at Kota Bharu on the eastern coast of the Malay peninsula on December 8, 1941. Other Army contingents also staged successful landing operations in succession in the Philippines, Borneo, and the Dutch East Indies.

4. Training Of Army Air Units

The training given fighting air squadrons features both the full development of the fighting capacity of single planes, together with the confidence of individual airmen in their fighting ability, and the enhancement of the fighting power of planes engaged in combats in formations.

Through this training, excellent fighting spirit and unrivaled fighting technique are developed and made the Nippon Army air force a power recognized by the nations of the world.

Army airmen are thus prepared for accomplishing exploits worthy of their name in both air combats and raids.

When one realizes that the Nippon Army air arm has dealt destructive blows on enemy air squadrons that were superior in the point of airplane performance, it will be plain that the superiority of the Nippon Army air force, developed by intensive training, is of the highest world standard.

Moreover, now that the crack "Hayabusa" planes, which recently appeared before the eyes of the public, have gone into action, the air strength of the Imperial Army has been enhanced to the maximum degree.

It is to be noted in this connection that the parachute corps of both the Army and Navy are participating in the military operations of the Greater East Asia War.

A Navy parachute squad, landing on January 12 at Menado, strategic point at the north-eastern end of Celebes island, former Dutch territory, immediately captured the point.

An Army parachute unit staging a surprise landing at Palembang, key point in the southern part of Sumatra island on February 14, opened the way for the completion of operations in that area and the subsequent capitulation of the whole of the Dutch East Indies, thus resulting in the isolation of Australia.

The activity of the parachute corps dealt a heavy psychological blow to the Anglo-American-Dutch allied troops. At the same time, the sudden appearance of Nippon's parachutists who revealed their existence for

the first time in the present war and their superiority surprised the whole of the world. All this was due to the discreet preparations and training carried out by the Imperial Army.

The mission of parachute units is to secure control of strategic enemy points, to hold the points for many hours until the main forces reach them, and to open the way for the launching of major operations by destroying important enemy defense facilities.

The contingents, therefore, represent a special attacking corps of the air, the members of which participate in hostilities at the risk of their lives. Their training is directed to the promotion of a self-sacrificing patriotic spirit. Because of its intensity, the training naturally results in many casualties. Nevertheless, Nippon parachutists succeeded in fulfilling their mission capably in their first appearance in the Greater East Asia War.

The exploits by the nine heroes, the crew members of the Special Attack Flotilla, who sacrificed their lives in the attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, will be forever recorded in history as an example of the pure patriotism possessed by the people of Nippon. Our parachutists have also won fame for their bravery and loyalty.

The superiority of the Imperial Army, in a word, is based on unrivaled military strength originating from the spirit underlying its organization.

The remarkable achievements of the Nippon forces since the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War are the result of intensive training, as explained previously. These achievements can be elaborated upon further as follows:

A) Successful Landing Operations
At Various Points

Hon Kong:

The entire island of Hongkong, as viewed from Kowloon peninsula, is a solid fortress armed with the most up-to-date equipment. The coastline fronting Victoria bay was fortified by tockas to the whole extent except where precipices rise abruptly from the sea. Moreover, Liemun pass, which separates the island from Kowloon, is a channel from about one kilometer to three kilometers wide with a swift flow of current and varying greatly in depth at the ebb and flow of the tide.

On the other hand, Victoria bay was so infested with mines that it was considered unnavigable, and yet, on the night of December 18, the efficient Imperial forces daringly embarked on landing operations that proved successful.

Continuing their incessant attack on the night of Taisho Tenno-sai (anniversary of the demise of Emperor Taisho) on December 25, the Japanese completely routed the British, compelling them to surrender unconditionally.

Philippines:

The Imperial expeditionary forces dispatched to the Philippines successfully landed at Aparri and Vigan in the northern part of Luzon island on December 10, and again at Legaspi in the southern part of the same island on December 12. By immediately occupying the enemy air bases, the landing parties enabled the Nippon air units to annihilate the foe planes soon afterward in aerial battles.

Again the Nippon main forces succeeded in effecting landing operations at Lamon bay on December 22, and at Lingayen bay on December 24, inflicting heavy casualties on and driving back the combined Filipino-U.S. forces, and finally, on January 2, captured Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the campaign against Mindanao island was being carried on. On December 20, the Imperial forces landed successfully at Davao.

The success of the main land corps at Lamon bay and Lingayen bay went far to assist in the capture of Manila.

It must be borne in mind that absolute command of the sea and of the air, which can be realized only through close cooperation among Army, Navy, and air forces, made the Nippon operations possible.

At the time of the attack at Lingayen bay, a typhoon had made the conditions far from ideal and words are ineffective in describing the hardships which the Nippon landing parties had to undergo. The enemy had encamped in the eastern and western parts of the bay, and it was at a point just between the two that the Japanese main forces landed and made ready to annihilate the foe.

Northeasterly winds usually drive the waves high at Lamon bay and the Nippon forces had expected such an obstacle, but just on December 24, the sea was calm as a mirror. The Imperial forces, seizing the opportunity, made a surprise landing at an unguarded point and came out victorious.

Malaya:

The entire outlook of the Greater East Asia War depended on the success or failure of the Nippon Army's strategy in Malaya. Every precaution was therefore taken and the campaign launched with the greatest determination.

As might be expected, the landing operations constituted a tremendous feat and was one participated in by land, sea, and air units. On the very day of the declaration of war, December 8, at 1.20 a.m., Nippon troops landed at Kota Bharu, a key point along the northeastern coast of the Malay peninsula.

The enemy resistance was extremely stubborn. They attempted to check the Nippon landing with barriers that they had erected all along the shore and even into the sea. The enemy Army, Navy, and air units displayed remarkable collaboration. However, their efforts to repulse the attack were in vain. With the intrepid Nippon officers and men all animated by a spirit of ardent self-sacrifice, a landing was finally effected.

General Hisaichi Terauchi, commander-in-chief of the Nippon expeditionary forces in the southern region, awarded a letter of commendation to laud the meritorious achievements of the Hiroshi Takumi contingent and the units cooperating with it, whose joint efforts captured this important British air base, Kota Bharu, by blitz-attacking the stronghold with "human bullets."

This contingent was the first to receive such a letter of commendation after the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War.

That a report of their brilliant military services was submitted to His Majesty the Emperor is sufficient testimony to the fact that their achievements were characterized by unusual bravery.

The successful landing in Malaya was second only in importance to the capture of Singapore. Nippon's invincible strategic position in the Greater East Asia War may be justly attributed, in a great measure, to this victory.

British Borneo:

The Imperial forces landed at Miri on December 16, while on December 24, by overcoming the attack of enemy aircraft and submarines, they made another successful landing at Kuching. Again on December 31, they occupied Brunei without bloodshed.

The entire British Borneo was brought under the control of the Nippon forces as the strategic points were captured one after another following the fall of Sandakan (capital of North Borneo) and Tawau on January 23 and 24, respectively.

Dutch Borneo:

In close cooperation with the Navy, the Imperial Army effected a landing at Tarakan on January 11. In concert with Navy units pressing against Celebes island, Army contingents passed southward through Macassar strait and, on January 25, they landed at Balik Papan. On February 10, they occupied Banjermassin. With the cooperation of the units directed to the western part of the island and which had advanced

southward from British Borneo, the Nippon forces completed the occupation of both British and Dutch Borneo.

Sumatra, Java:

Descending on the oil-producing district of Palembang on February 14, the Imperial Army's secret parachute corps completely captured the region on February 17.

The military operations against the East Indies started when Nippon units-this time not from the sea, but from the sky-landed right into the midst of the enemy.

On February 15, they also landed at Muntok on Banka island and occupied the entire island.

Then as the Imperial forces landed successfully at Denpasar on Bali island, they indicated readiness to attack Java, and pressed against the southern part of Sumatra as well.

After threatening Java, the Nippon forces finally commenced their attack there when they effected landings on the island on March 1. Because the scope of the Java landing operations was unusually extensive, it could be well compared to the campaign at Kota Bharu in Malaya.

Lieut-General Hitoshi Imamura, highest commander of the Nippon forces in the Dutch East Indies area, ordered his troops to land and advance from three different points on Java. He had confidence in the mighty power of the Nippon Navy and in its ability to overcome the Anglo-American-Dutch allied sea forces which were attempting to put up a defense.

The western forces landed at Merak, west of Java's capital, Batavia, and the central forces landed in a sector east of Batavia, while the eastern landing forces went ashore on the coast north of Surabaya.

Then, as the Nippon Army units advanced, the 1,000-kilometer expanse of Java came completely under control. The Anglo-American-Dutch allied forces, which were making their last effort to resist, were routed.

Distinguishing themselves in the Java campaign, the Imperial Army units thus annihilated the pivotal military stronghold in the enemy's anti-Nippon encirclement.

Prior to these operations, the landing corps that had occupied Guam on December 10 in cooperation with the Navy, made a new landing at Rabaul on Bismarck island on January 23. Another unit landed at Amboina island on January 31, while still another group landed at

Timor on February 20. The Nippon forces pressed on various enemy territories near the equator, and thus, many points of strategic importance in the southwestern Pacific were entirely destroyed.

By the occupation of Salamaua in the north-eastern part of New Guinea, Port Moresby was endangered from the near and Australia's very existence is now imperiled by the advance of the Imperial forces.

B) Excellence In Strategy

In confronting the national emergency, the Imperial Army worked out plans for military operations with the utmost deliberation ever since they decided to declare war against America and Britain, as explained earlier.

The Nippon Army possesses two important factors that lead to victory: First, its unmistakable judgment in selecting the most opportune moment to commence their operations, which necessarily brings about the maximum results. Second, its determination to win decisive battles no matter what the cost.

The Nippon Army took into consideration the speedy consumption of Nippon's war resources that would be necessitated by the outbreak of war and the probable war trophies that would be secured to help the various industries in the progress of the war. December 8, 1941, was wisely chosen to declare war against America and Britain so that the adjustment of resources would be smoothly made. Great care was exercised not to miss this opportunity.

The economic blockade by the Americans, British, and the Dutch against Nippon culminated in the enforcement of the asset-freezing decree on July 25, 1941. The economic relations grew worse and worse. When Nippon's sincere effort to effect a solution through diplomatic negotiations proved futile, the Nippon Empire, with self-confidence and determination, resorted to a punitive war in conformity with the reasons outlined earlier.

Success or failure of the strategy in the southern regions, especially in Malaya, depended solely on the landing operations. A study of the tides, phases of the moon, and the monsoon, which vitally affect landing operations in the south seas, led to the conclusion that December 8 would be the last favorable opportunity.

Missing this occasion would have meant postponement of action to the following month, when considering the tide and the moon alone, but in January and February, the monsoons hit the districts so violently that landing operations are impossible. It was figured that in March, other unfavorable factors might appear to hinder the campaign.

The time ~~was~~ ripe. Without losing a moment, the Nippon forces dealt a death blow on the enemy.

It is not necessary now to comment on the glorious blitz-attack carried out by the Nippon Navy at Hawaii, for indeed, that was a feat indicative of the excellence of Nippon's strategy.

Accurate, cautious, and skilful tactics characterized the Malayan operations which, when judged from the adverse conditions under which they were carried out, should be numbered among the greatest campaigns. Special mention should be made of this drive since it brought about the collapse of the A-B-C-D encirclement plan.

This was one of the typical campaigns of the Army in the present Greater East Asia War. The main obstructions which hindered the operations were:

- a) The expanse of 5,000 kilometers of ocean lying between the homeland and the battlefields.
- b) Few means of communications except for two or three roads, the rest being jungle regions.
- c) Singapore fortress, one of the four largest fortresses in the world, provided with excellent defense facilities of all descriptions.
- d) Scorching heat of over 120° and the peril of contagious diseases.
- e) Difficulty of carrying on aerial activities owing to the rainy season which had then started.

For these reasons, it is not difficult to imagine the hardships that confronted all the servicemen under the leadership of Lieut-General Tomoyuki Yamashita, highest commander of the Nippon forces in Malaya. And yet, the landing operations were effected with marvelous success.

In addition, since the Nippon air forces quickly occupied the Kota Bharu airfield, allowing no chance for enemy action, they not only secured mastery of the air, but also opened the way for the land forces to make their southward advance. The subsequent occupation of airfield after airfield enabled the Nippon forces to show their skill in concerted operations. Then profiting by their strenuous training, as already mentioned, the Nippon units pressed onward, covering 1,100 kilometers in their speedy advance.

In concert with the Nippon forces advancing along the eastern coast of Malaya, a big role was played by mobile forces operating

on the sea along the western coast. These forces, operating launches and barges, actually navigated through the strait of Malacca still under the control of the British Navy and struck blows at the enemy's rear.

After leaving Lumut, the Nippon corps on the western coast of Malaya advanced southward, repulsing the aerial attacks of the enemy, and landed at Selangor and Utan Melintang to attack the enemy main battery from the rear. On January 16, a surprise landing was effected at Batu Pahat, about 110 kilometers west of Singapore and the airfield there was occupied. This speedy drive likewise helped immensely in the final capture of Singapore.

Also, the strategy of landing at Ubin island northeast of Singapore greatly enhanced the crossing of Johore strait. These "decoy" troops truly distinguished themselves with their clever tactics.

Thus over the vast battlefield that extends 10,000 kilometers from east to west and 6,000 kilometers from north to south, the Nippon Army, Navy and air forces, in perfect unity, succeeded in displaying excellent military strategy achieving unprecedented successes.

C) Air Forces' Activities

The air forces of the Nippon Army, too, must be mentioned here for their distinguished services. Manifesting without reserve their real ability and value in the southern regions, they have emerged gloriously victorious wherever they have flown. The air forces of the enemy are on the verge of being annihilated under the blows delivered by the mighty Nippon Wild Eagles.

At the very outset of the Greater East Asia War, the Nippon Wild Eagles raided the air bases on the eastern and western coasts of Malaya on 20 different occasions during December 8 and 9. During these two days, they either shot down or destroyed 115 planes, completely annihilating the foremost line of the enemy air forces. The Nippon planes' continued attacks grew more and more fierce and at the end of 42 raids, they had either shot down or destroyed 195 enemy planes.

In the second stage of their strategy, the Nippon planes worked in harmony with the land forces and bombed Penang on nine occasions. This was the enemy's naval and air base in Malacca strait. During the repeated attacks they sank three transports and seriously damaged 11. Then, on December 28, they succeeded in sinking a submarine and setting ablaze three large warplanes. They afforded the land forces perfect protection and patrolled against enemy submarines. On January 26, Nippon planes engaged in a duel with enemy planes above Endau and shot down 40 enemy aircraft when the latter came to bomb a Nippon convoy.

In the third stage of their strategy, which was also carried out in close cooperation with the land forces, Nippon air squadrons attacked the jungle regions on 45 occasions. In spite of stormy weather and squalls, they fulfilled their duties by directing and helping the communications of the land forces, as well as scouting. Beside bombing trains, motorcars, and other transportation facilities, they effected a successful raid at Klang on enemy tanks and artillery positions on January 8.

The fourth stage strategy, which was to attack Singapore, commenced on December 29, when Nippon Wild Eagles raided Singapore for the first time in a large formation. During the uninterrupted aerial operations which lasted until January 8, they raided Singapore as often as 72 times and inflicted inestimable damage on the island fortresses. About 170 planes were shot down before January 9 in aerial duels and the Nippon air forces secured full mastery of the air over Singapore.

The enemy's most efficient Hawker-Hurricanes were outbattled by the Nippon Wild Eagles. In their attack launched on the Singapore fortresses, the Rising Sun planes proved most ferocious. Also, they intercepted the foe's paths of retreat, and mass-raided Sumatra. On February 7 and 8, they raided Palembang airfield, shooting down or destroying 67 aircraft, thus preventing reinforcements from being sent to the enemy air forces at Singapore.

Their achievements put an end to the enemy's air power.

In all, during the aerial operations over Malaya, the Nippon Wild Eagles carried out 206 raids and destroyed 454 planes (55 unascertained). Such achievements are unprecedented in history.

At the time of the air-raids over Singapore, aerial operations were carried on uninterruptedly both day and night. They established a record of carrying out 34 raids during a single night and 38 raids during one day.

When they had succeeded in gaining control over the Malayan sky, these Wild Eagles immediately appeared over the Dutch East Indies without rest and resumed their aerial operations by raiding Java and destroying 40 aircraft in surprise attacks on Buitenzorg and Kalidjati airfields. They kept blasting one airfield after another in western Java so that by February 27, they had engaged in 17 air-raids, destroying over 200 enemy planes.

Again on March 1, while helping and protecting the landing of Army units, the Nippon planes bombed right and left the enemy vessels roaming about in the vicinity, seriously damaging four cruisers and one destroyer. They proceeded to Kalidjati airfield on March 2 and blew up the remnant planes lying on the field west of Bandoeeng. By March 9, they had participated in 36 air-raids

on enemy airfields, destroying 408 planes (112 unascertained) and sinking nine vessels. The Nippon losses were only 32 planes.

The Nippon airmen's activities in the Burma area consisted in bringing under control every British military base in the Burmese sector of the Malay peninsula, such as Tavoy, Victoria Point, and Mergui, and in overturning the British plan to create disorders in the rear of the battlelines in Malaya. On December 23 and 25, a large combined air squadron of fighters and bombers raided Rangoon and, during these two days, they shot down 64 planes (17 unascertained) and damaged 14.

This victory dealt a fatal blow to the British air force which had begun to reinforce its fighting strength in East Asia.

A little later, on January 4, Nippon planes carried out the first surprise night attack and caused great damage on Mingaladon airfield in the suburbs of Rangoon. Keeping in touch after that with the land forces advancing southward and distinguishing themselves by their daring tactics, they completely wiped out the British air force in that area and crushing the hopes of the enemy that had been trying to begin their defense of India by making Rangoon their foremost defense base.

The exploits of the Nippon Wild Eagles who distinguished themselves in the capture of Burma's capital, Rangoon, will forever be remembered.

The British air pilots who proved a good match for the German aviators were thus completely routed by a single crushing blow of the Nippon air forces.

Dauntless youthful airmen with ruddy cheeks broke through the screens of enemy bullets and made the enemy's blood run cold. Such is the manifestation of the brave spirit fostered in the hearts of the Nippon Wild Eagles.

The war results of the Nippon air forces in the seven chief operations, namely, Malaya, the Philippines, Burma, the D.E.I., British New Guinea, HongKong, and Guam reached the following figures by March 7:

Shot down or destroyed on land - 480 (147 unascertained).

Damaged - 681 (100 unascertained).

Total - 1,162 (347 unascertained).

D) Parachute Troops' Activities

Emulating the German parachute troops that dropped on Crete island, Japanese parachute troops made their appearance in a dramatic manner in the Greater East Asia War and achieved most brilliant results. Appearing suddenly above Palembang on February 14, the Nippon Army parachutists, paving the way for the advance of the land forces, charged upon the foe from the sky in broad daylight.

Every inch of their entire being was animated with the spirit of the Nippon warrior or Yamato Damashii. Their hearts were inflamed with ardent fighting spirit.

Like birds swooping down, they descended into the enemy midst. A fierce clash ensued. Then the Rising Sun flags were unfurled by the tocktas and under the coconut palms. The richest oil producing district in the Orient and the Palembang airfield were completely captured.

The modest Nippon maidens in the homeland had prepared these parachutes with their own hands in anticipation of this memorable day. The pure white, lily-like parachutes which brought down the warriors safely from the sky to overrun the enemy camps were the fruits of the maidens incessant toil both day and night.

On the morning of the expedition, the high-spirited heroes, enjoying and inhaling the freshness of the morning, made their final preparations. Steel helmets, resembling large bowls, served as head protectors. Each one shouldered a khaki sack containing his parachute folded into a rectangular shape. A spare parachute was fastened in front for emergency. Deep green tapes, crossing over each other, were tied around the legs and shoulders. A dagger and a pistol at the hips were hidden under the coat.

The heroes respectfully and devoutly bowed toward the Imperial Palace to bid farewell. The national anthem was solemnly sung. The faces of the parachutists expressed calmness and self-possession. It was hard to imagine that they were the ones who, a minute later, were to dive into an abyss of unknown danger. Everything was ready. Left behind were their last wills; mementos in the form of cuttings of hair, etc., etc.

Ready for death, if need be, out of their love for their country, they had no worldly attachments. They had already severed themselves from mundane relations.

Their demeanor in descending from the sky was not only glorious but god-like. The antiaircraft guns of the enemy did not faze these warriors. They dropped to the ground with magazine boxes which were simultaneously thrown off. The main corps charged into the Palembang airfield, while the others stormed into the oil refineries.

A certain soldier landed on an enemy tochka and after a hand-to-hand fight, he overcame the enemy.

Another one landed on the roof of the enemy barracks and fought heroically.

Nothing could check the mighty power of the attacking warriors. Up went the triumphant battle-cry of the conquerors!

The Japanese at home, too, were astounded by the success achieved by this surprise parachute corps, and the enemy troops were so upset, disheartened, and demoralized that they were deprived of all fighting spirit.

(By Jiro Suzuki)